

ought to pay their bills. My colleagues on the other side want to hold the debt ceiling hostage, leaving Social Security recipients and veterans potentially without their pensions or benefits.

Does that make any sense? If we default on our debt, over 6 million jobs could be diminished. Seniors may not get their benefits for a period of time. Costs will skyrocket. Some economists indicate we could put \$12 trillion of American savings at risk if it were extended in this gamesmanship, this attempt to stare each other down, on whether or not we lift the debt ceiling.

That makes no sense. That is risky business. We ought to raise our debt ceiling and pay our bills, and I think there is common agreement that we ought to get our debt under control.

As a Blue Dog, our focus and purpose of being is in the area of fiscal responsibility. As a matter of fact, the last American President that balanced the budget was President Bill Clinton. That was a while ago.

I think that there is common bipartisan agreement to focus on waste, on fraud, and abuse. I mean, those are the buzzwords, right? If we could only focus on waste, fraud, and abuse. But no one wants to highlight, well, how will that impact Social Security? How will that impact other mandatory spending that we have all committed to on a bipartisan basis?

The way to do this is for Republicans and Democrats to come together, separate from raising the debt ceiling, and agree to focus on two things that cause debt—expenditures and revenues.

If we can get an agreement on what we think the Nation's responsibility to be on our priorities for expenditures and the necessary revenues to pay for them, then, only then, would we get our deficit under control, which is what, by the way, President Bill Clinton was able to do a while ago on a bipartisan basis.

So let's get real. Let's not hold the American people hostage, our economy, or the global economy as we play fast and loose with this talk and notion of whether or not to lift the debt ceiling. We must lift the debt ceiling because it is the responsible thing to do.

I ask my colleagues on the other side: Let's come together, let's work on fiscal responsibility in a bipartisan fashion because we should. It is obviously an important, critical issue as we move forward. Let's not play fast and loose with whether or not we are going to be deadbeats and whether or not we are going to pay our bills. That is putting the American economy at risk. It is something we should not do.

HONORING MASTER SGT. JOSEPH KAPACZIEWSKI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am here with a very heavy heart to honor Master Sergeant Joseph

Kapaczewski, a member of the 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

□ 1030

Army Rangers are some of the most elite soldiers in the world, and Master Sergeant Kapaczewski, nicknamed Kap, was no exception.

In April 2010, while serving in eastern Afghanistan, his team of Army Rangers was locked in combat with a group of armed insurgents. When one of his comrades was hit, Kap sprinted through the fire to provide aid. With the help of a fellow Ranger, they dragged the wounded soldier to safety, actions which earned Kap an Army Commendation Medal with valor.

Kap's actions would be remarkable under any conditions, but considering his experiences from a few years earlier, they were inconceivable.

A native of Connecticut, Kap enlisted in the United States Army following his senior year of high school in September 2001, just days before the 9/11 attacks. In 2002, he was deployed to Afghanistan, and the following year, he parachuted into Iraq for the initial invasion.

With only 2 days left in his fifth deployment to Iraq in 2005, Kap's convoy was ambushed by heavy fire. A grenade exploded inches away from Kap after falling through the hatch of his vehicle. Shrapnel ripped through his body, shattering his right leg and severing an artery in his right arm.

Severely wounded, Kap collected himself, directed his vehicle to cover, and alerted the rest of the convoy to the attack. It wasn't until then that he allowed his wounds to be treated. Kap was evacuated to Walter Reed Hospital, and while his arm recovered, his leg did not.

Despite numerous surgeries, his leg was barely functional. Ultimately, there was only one choice—to amputate it. With the pain gone, Kap was fitted with a prosthetic, and he completed hundreds of hours of physical therapy. He had one sole objective during his difficult and lengthy recovery: He wanted to return to combat with his unit.

Everyone thought it would be impossible for Kap to achieve that goal. No one under his circumstances had ever returned to combat, and they agreed Kap had completed his service to our Nation. Kap didn't care. He completed the 12-mile ruck march test, parachuted with a combat load, and not only regained his squad leader title but was promoted to platoon sergeant.

Kap became the first Ranger in United States Army history to return to combat action with a prosthetic limb. He was awarded the Bronze Star with valor and a Purple Heart, among numerous other decorations. Kap was deployed to combat 11 times to fight the global war on terrorism, five of which were while he had a prosthetic leg.

He wrote a book about it called "Back in the Fight."

There is more to any of our soldiers or warriors than what they do in uniform. I have had multiple friends reach out to me who talked about the impact that Kap had on them as a leader and as a friend, whether it was riding motorcycles together or just hanging out after a tough day at work, in training, or any other way. He never lost sight of how he came to be where he was.

Unfortunately, Kap's life ended far too soon last week at the age of 40 due to a significant enemy our veterans face right here at home: suicide.

Our Nation has a moral obligation to not only prepare and equip the servicemembers we send into harm's way but to support and care for them when their duty is done. Yet, we have drastically failed countless numbers of our veterans who have sacrificed everything, including their lives, to protect us.

President Lincoln's promise to care for the men and women who have "borne the battle" is one of the most important functions of our government, and we must do better.

Kap's wife, Kimberly, and his sons, Wyatt and Cody, as well as the rest of his family and friends, are in my prayers through this difficult time.

Kap will always be remembered by many for his warrior spirit and his extraordinary story of resiliency that made him an inspiration and a military legend.

Mr. Speaker, I am reminded of lyrics to a song one of my friends, Darryl Worley, sings called "The 22."

Let me share a few of the lyrics:

You can't unsee what I saw
You can't get back what I lost
I've lost a wife
Five brothers
My kids and the man I was
I thought that I left the front lines
But the fight for my life rages on
We've lost 21 soldiers in only a day
And that's the unthinkable truth
So I'll lay down my gun
And I'll soldier on, and I will not be 22
I'll lay down my gun
I'll soldier on, and I will not be 22.

At the end of his journey, the Apostle Paul said: I fought the good fight; I have kept the faith; and I have finished the race.

I pray that everyone would live a full and natural life, fight that battle, and never surrender to it.

I thank you, Kap.

RESTORING AMERICANS' TRUST IN GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to pass the TRUST Act to ban individual stock trading by Members of Congress and their spouses.

Now, Representatives are elected to serve their communities back home, and this bill builds trust and makes important reforms. While the American people are working hard to keep